Greetings in the Lord.

I want to share with you this month some of the wonderful things that continue to happen in Canada, in particular, our annual Life Jesus Higher Rally.

This year again thousands of our Canadian friends came to exalt the Lord. There were about 1,500 at the youth rally and over 4,000 at the adult rally. Each year I am very inspired the moment I set foot in the Metro Toronto Convention Center as I see a microcosm of the whole world gathered there. Toronto is such an international city that one gets a real foretaste of what the kingdom will look like when the kingdoms of this earth become the Kingdom of Christ. Asians and Africans and Europeans stand side by side at the rally praising the Lord together and praying for Canada in the spiritual struggle it is going through.

Before the rally I was able to spend some time with our Episcopal Advisor, Archbishop Thomas Collins, Archbishop of Toronto. We were joined by a government leader and shared about our common commitment to Christ and prayed together for Canada. The Lord has His people at every level of society bearing silent, and not so silent, witness to His Lordship.

We are also blessed to have an excellent Board of Directors for Renewal Ministries in Canada. This past year Vernon Robertson, a layman from Vancouver, helped arrange for some of our television programs to be aired nationally on the Vision network during the Lenten season. Our Toronto area Board Members work so hard each year to prepare for the rally. Special mention must be made of Paul and Dorle Kromer who at great personal cost to themselves do everything possible to lift Jesus higher. Dorle is battling cancer and needs our prayers.

We also are blessed by the competent administrative support and printing services provided for us by Henry Kovacic and his staff at the Ave Maria Center. All our newsletters, sent throughout the world are printed in these offices in Mississauga, Ontario. Because of the financial

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Marilyn MacDonald is one of our faithful collaborators in the Canadian office of Renewal Ministries. She handles a lot of the mail and telephone communications involved with our work in Canada.
Dear Co-Workers in the Gospel,

Because of the financial generosity of our Canadian supporters, mission work in 21 countries (for example: Lithuania, Vietnam, China, Haiti, Russia, Sudan, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and more) is able to be directly funded from Canada.

Also, Peter Herbeck and myself were invited to attend a special consultation on “New Evangelization in Canada” held in Ottawa recently, to share with other ministries committed to evangelization in Canada what we are learning and what we are hearing the Lord say to us.

We are always delighted to see so many of our Canadian supporters attend our annual Renewal Ministries Gathering each year, held near Ann Arbor, MI, and participate with us in the mission in so many ways. We are particularly grateful for the work of Peter Thompson of Calgary, who serves as a Country Coordinator.

Over the years vast numbers of our monthly newsletter have successfully been printed on these printing presses in our Canadian office near Toronto, and mailed to countries all over the world.

Peter Thompson of Calgary, who serves as the Country Coordinator for Kenya, is seen here in a men’s prison in Nairobi.
Please Pray...

+ for all those the Lord has called to the priesthood. May God give them the courage, vision, and strength to serve the Church.

+ that the upcoming Priests’ Retreat in Uganda in July will empower and equip the clergy in Africa.

+ for the prayer intentions of all our supporters and their family members, especially as they face the challenges of illness and economic uncertainty.

Thank you for your continued support through prayer as we labor together for the Gospel and the renewal of the Church.
More than 4,000 adults gathered at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre for the 18th annual *Lift Jesus Higher Rally*. Centered on the theme “Joy for Tough Times” the day was filled with inspiring talks, testimonies, praise and worship, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Eucharistic Adoration and Holy Mass concelebrated by Bishop Pearse Lacey, Bishop Vincent Nguyen and the many priests present.

The international city of Toronto and the Rally bring together people from many different nations, who join in one common goal—to lift Jesus higher and further the kingdom of God in Canada.

Paul and Dorle Kromer are integral members of the Renewal Ministries’ family in Canada. Paul serves on the Canadian Board of Directors and year after year, he and his wife have rolled up their sleeves and put in the countless hours and effort it takes to organize and run *Lift Jesus Higher*, the largest annual Catholic rally in Canada.

Chris Bray, winner of the 2009 New Artist of the Year Gospel Music Award in Canada, led the youth into deeper worship throughout the day.

Righteous B, an award-winning Catholic rapper and co-founder of the inner-city Dirty Vagabond Ministries, put on a fun-filled, ear splitting, high energy, interactive, and inspirational hour-long concert for the youth.
Our youth team from Renewal Ministries, drawing from our theme for the day, “Great Expectations,” used skits, testimonies, talks and music to convey the message of God’s calling, purpose and hope to the 1500 youth who gathered for the day. (Bottom row, l to r: Ruth Dirkes, Christina Thomashefski, Caitlin Anderson, Cait Donovan, Debbie Herbeck, Kelsie Norton, Natalie Orians, Haley Pline, Paige Wolniakowski; Top row, l to r: Craig Pohl, James Kresta, Pete Burak, Josh Herbeck)

Marcus Grodi, a former Protestant pastor, convert to the Catholic faith and host of The Journey Home, a weekly live program on EWTN, shared about the importance of Scripture in tough times and the ten scriptures that have most impacted his life.

Teresa Tomeo, author, syndicated Catholic talk show host, and motivational speaker with nearly 30 years of experience in TV, radio and newspaper spoke about the challenges of the modern culture and how we can be “Joyful Culture Warriors.”
Cherishing the Gift of the Word

In John 14:23 Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love Him and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words…” To keep is defined as:

- to continue to hold as one’s own; to have under one’s care; to have or maintain by continued enjoyment, use or profit; to cause to stay in good condition; to remain free of deterioration; to protect from harm.

Do you hold, keep, and cherish the word as the gift that it is from the Father? Do you guard it and cherish it as a treasure, a GIFT from God, Himself? What do you experience when you give a very special possession to someone else and they treat it lightly, or ignore it, or discard it? How do you treat the word of God?

I remember when I was a sophomore in high school and had shown over four or five years some proficiency in playing the clarinet. For Christmas of that year, my parents bought me a clarinet made of the finest wood—this from parents who had no money for luxuries. I was stunned. For days, I would just open the case and look at it, or I would handle the various pieces with great care in my hands.

Sometimes I would polish it, even when it didn’t need it; sometimes I would just hold the case on my lap and thank God for the gift. Then I began to play it and the sound was incredible—even to my 15 year old ears. How I took care of that instrument! Whenever I needed to travel to an event or a concert, it was always of first concern, even before myself. It was a treasure; I knew it and I guarded it well and used it well both to honor those who had given it to me and to be able contribute my part to the beauty of good music.

Looking at the gift of God’s word that comes from the Father, do you cherish the word; do you till the soil of your heart so that the gift of God’s word can actually take root in your life and produce fruit? Do you cultivate the soil—your mind and spirit so that it is open to becoming fruitful? Is the soil of your mind and spirit thirsty for truth? Do you regularly drink from the fountain of truth? In other words, do you KEEP the word? Is it under your care? Do you maintain the word so that it stays in good condition, free from deterioration? Has the power of God’s word been impeded in your life? Has it come to harm under your stewardship?

Do you memorize Scripture? Not for the sake of memorizing chapter and verse and being able to pat yourself on the back, but so that you can carry the word with you in your mind and heart all day long?

“It is when things are peaceful that people should harvest the Word of God for themselves and store it in the inner recesses of their hearts, as the ant stores the results of the summer’s labor in the cavities of its nest. There is time to do this in the summer months, but winter will overtake us, the time of trouble. I mean, and unless we can find resources within ourselves, we shall inevitably starve to death.” (Expositions of the Psalms, St. Augustine, Vol. 5, pp. 309–313, New City Press, 2002)
By Sr. Ann Shields

Pope Benedict says: “In the trials of life and in every temptation, the secret of victory lies in listening to the word of truth and rejecting with determination, falsehood and evil...listen anew to the Gospel, the Word of the Lord, the word of truth, so that in every Christian, in every one of us, the understanding of the truth given to him, given to us, may be strengthened so that we may live it and witness to it.” (Spiritual Thoughts: In the First Year of His Papacy, Washington, DC, USCCB Publishing, 2007)

The word of God is an infinite and living treasure wherein God Himself shares with us his wisdom and his plan for us, and the way to fulfill that plan and come home to Him safely and forever. Why do we so often ignore it? Why do we only read it sporadically, if at all? So often I hear people say, “Oh, I can’t understand it, it’s boring,” or “I have too many other things to read in the little time I have,” or “Someday I’ll get around to it.” And then we wonder why so much of life leaves us baffled and confused and discouraged. The Word is the roadmap that moves us by the shortest route to that for which we were created. His word is the word of Life, not just pious thoughts and good ideas but the Living Word which will lead us to the light of wisdom and understanding, to a sure and safe harbor even amid the storms of life.

I really urge you, if you haven’t already, to make a decision to DAILY read from the Scripture. If you don’t have this habit in your life, start with a Psalm a day and the Gospel reading for the Mass of the day or several verses or a chapter from the Gospel of Matthew. Then move on to Mark, Luke and John. Then the letters of Paul and so on...

“Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words…” (Jn 14:23) This verse is a firm and sure measuring stick. Do I really love God?

To learn more about reading the Scripture regularly and meditatively check out Sr. Ann’s books, Deeper Conversion and To Be Like Jesus at www.renewalministries.net.

Giving Through Your Will

Residents of the United States and Canada are well-known for their generosity. Each year their charitable giving sustains thousands of charitable organizations—like Renewal Ministries—that are doing a tremendous work around the world.

There are different ways you can make a bequest to Renewal Ministries. If you live in the United States, one of these formulas will easily work:

“I give and bequeath to Renewal Ministries Inc., 230 Collingwood, Suite 250, Ann Arbor, MI 48103, Tax ID 38-2385975, the sum of $_____ for its general uses and purposes.”

“I give, devise, and bequeath to Renewal Ministries, 230 Collingwood, Suite 250, Ann Arbor, MI 48103, Tax ID 38-2385975, the ____% of the rest, remainder and residue of my estate.”

If you reside in Canada, use the following name, address, and registration number in the above formulas: Catholic Renewal Ministries Inc., 331 Evans Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M8Z 1K2, Registration No. 12374-0243-RR0001.

If you have any questions, please call Gary Seromik at 734-662-1730 ext. 21, who is administrator for Renewal Ministries. He will be happy to answer any questions you might have and send you helpful information on bequests and other charitable giving vehicles such as charitable gift annuities.
July 2010

Mission to Mexico
June 27–July 3
Jim Murphy and Team
Contact Jessica at 734-662-1730 x32 or jsherwood@renewalministries.net

Mission to Tanzania
July 7–23
Tom Edwards and Team
Contact Jessica at 734-662-1730 x32
or jsherwood@renewalministries.net

Yankton, South Dakota
Annual Catholic Charismatic Conference
July 9–11
Debbie Herbeck
Contact Jane Barz at 605-940-4101
or cottonwoodfrm@santel.net

Mission to Uganda
July 11–25
Peter Herbeck, Lloyd & Nancy Greenhaw and Team

Mission to Ghana
July 28–August 9
Brent Heiser and Team
Contact Jessica at 734-662-1730 x32
or jsherwood@renewalministries.net

Little Rock, AK, Charismatic Conference
July 30–August 1
Sr. Ann Shields, Fr. Graham Keep
Contact: ark.cc.org

August 2010

Mission to Siberia
August 4–23
Don & Pat Turbitt and Team
Contact Jessica at 734-662-1730 x32
or jsherwood@renewalministries.net

Mission to Kenya
August 11–27
Peter Thompson and Team
Contact Jessica at 734-662-1730 x32
or jsherwood@renewalministries.net

Livonia, MI, St. Michael the Archangel Parish Staff Retreat
August 17
Ralph Martin

September 2010

Mission to Latvia and Ukraine
September 1–20
Don & Pat Turbitt and Team
Contact Jessica at 734-662-1730 ext 32 or
jsherwood@renewalministries.net

Ann Arbor, MI
Taping for The Choices We Face
September 7–10, 13–17
Ralph Martin & Peter Herbeck

Nashville, TN
Evangelization and Catechesis Conference
September 18
Ralph Martin
Contact number: 615-373-4696

Ann Arbor, MI
Country Coordinator Meetings
September 23–25

Birmingham, AL, Crossing the Goal Taping
September 27–October 1
Peter Herbeck

On the Road

“ I beg you,
join with me in love.
Run with me in faith.
Let us yearn for our
heavenly home.
Let us sigh for it.
Let us realize that we
are strangers
here below.”

St. Augustine

Renewal Ministries
Chairman of the Board
Bishop Sam Jacobs, Houma-Thibodaux, LA

President
Ralph Martin

In Canada

Episcopal Advisors
Archbishop Thomas Collins, Toronto
Bishop M. Pearse Lacey, Ret. Auxiliary, Toronto

Chairman of the Board
Msgr. Gregory Smith

Renewal Ministries is a Catholic ministry committed to renewal and evangelization in the Church. It seeks to proclaim Jesus Christ through its TV and radio outreaches, as well as through books, tapes, conferences, retreats and other international evangelistic events.

Editor
Debra Herbeck

Design
Anne Martin

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